

# NNA League Rules & Regulations

March 2026



## Introduction

### 1 General Information

- 1.1 The League Secretary for each league shall also be known as the Competition Referee
- 1.2 The Winter League Secretary is **Olivia Murphy**, email address: [nottswinterleague@outlook.com](mailto:nottswinterleague@outlook.com)
- 1.3 The Interim Summer League Secretary is **Olivia Murphy**, email address: [nottswinterleague@outlook.com](mailto:nottswinterleague@outlook.com)
- 1.4 The Guest Player Administrator is **Olivia Murphy**, email address: [nottswinterleague@outlook.com](mailto:nottswinterleague@outlook.com). Phone number: 07467 131727
- 1.5 Winter League games shall be played at NTU Clifton Campus and Summer League games shall be played at NUSA (Nottingham University Samworth Academy).
- 1.6 The decisions of the League Secretary, on behalf of the NNA Committee, in respect of these rules and regulations and any other matter relating to the league, which is not provided for below, shall be considered final and binding on all parties (subject to the right of appeal)
- 1.7 All matches shall be played in accordance with the World Netball Rules of the Game in force at the time. All teams entering any of the leagues must also adhere to the special conditions within the Rules and Regulations. It is the responsibility of all Team Managers, Coaches, Captains and Umpires to ensure that all players are conversant with these Rules and Regulations
- 1.8 All clubs will be held responsible for the overall conduct (behavior, demeanor and actions) of all members associated with the club (players, officials and spectators) All Clubs must abide by the EN Codes of Conduct. (Any complaints regarding a breach of the codes must be notified, in writing, to the relevant League Secretary within 7 days of the fixture. Clubs may develop their own similar Code)

## Competition and Management

### 2 Club/Team Eligibility

- 2.1 The acceptance of any club into any Nottinghamshire County Netball league is dependent upon at least one primary member holding a recognized umpiring qualification and being on the current list of eligible umpires
- 2.2 Any club entering more than 3 teams into the league should have at least 2 primary members holding a recognized umpire qualification and being on the current list of eligible umpires
- 2.3 By entering a team in the league clubs/teams agree that:
  - They will abide by these rules and regulations
  - They are able and willing to fulfil the costs and commitments of participation in the league
  - They will participate in a sporting manner and play within the spirit of the game
  - They are bound by all the rules, policies, regulations and by-laws of England Netball, including the England Netball Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations

### 3 Playing Qualifications and Eligibility (*Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions*)

- 3.1 All clubs, players and umpires must be a member of England Netball
  - 3.1.2 Players can play for their "primary club", (or guest for another club, in line with rule 6), as long as that club is registered to the NNA League and the player has paid the Nottinghamshire Netball Association County membership fee
  - 3.1.3 All players in the league must have attained the age of 14 years by 1<sup>st</sup> September of the start of the current winter season. (For younger players who have attained the age of 13, by the 1<sup>st</sup> September of the start of the current winter season, an Age Banding Form must be sent to the League Secretary with the entry form. On receipt of this form by the League Secretary the player is eligible to play). Exceptions for any player in the performance pathway will be considered by the League Secretary
- 3.2 Teams must declare all players who are registered to any Regional League to the League Secretary
- 3.3 Regional League players can only be registered for one primary team within a club and that should be in the highest placed team within the highest two divisions in the league in which the club plays. i.e. either Premier or Division 1 for Winter League. Any club that has teams only in divisions below the top two in a league are

limited to a maximum 2 regional players who must play in the highest placed team only

- 3.4 Senior/junior players may play or umpire in no more than 2 matches per league fixture date (1 for their club/team 1 as a guest player. Play 1 match and umpire 1 match). No one can umpire and play the same fixture

#### **4 Code of Conduct (England Netball) (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 4.1 Players, coaches, officials and parents/spectators MUST abide by the Code Of Conduct (found on the NNA website). If anyone is found in breach of this they and/or their team will be penalised at the discretion of the League Secretary and Resolutions Lead, and may be subject to disciplinary action

#### **5 Registration of Squad members (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 5.1 The Full Team Sheet, stating EN Membership numbers, will be submitted via email to the League Secretary prior to the first fixture. Players can be added at any time during the season, as long as this is prior to the first fixture they participate in
- 5.2 Regional players must be advised prior to the first fixture. Any player who becomes a regional player part way through a season, must be advised to the League Secretary

#### **6 Guesting Players (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 6.1 The use of Guest Players is permitted, following the below rules. Full Guest Player process can be found on the NCNA website and is in accordance with Rule 3
- 6.2 Guest players must be indicated on the scorecard by adding their name and membership number on to the scorecard
- 6.3 Regional players can only play as a guest player as per the below (regardless of what division they play in the league);
- Winter League - Premier & Division 1
  - Summer League - Division 1 & 2
- 6.4 Teams must inform the Guest Players Administrator that they will be using a guest player, confirming the requesting team, opposition, division, date/time of match, Guest Player's name and EN Membership Number. This can be by text, WhatsApp or email, at least 2 hours before the game commences

#### **7 Playing the Game (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 7.1 Winter League fixtures will be 60 minutes, 4 x 15 minutes, with 3 minute intervals between quarters and 5 minutes at half time
- 7.2 Summer League fixtures will be 48 minutes, 4 x 12 minutes, with 3 minutes for the intervals and half time
- 7.3 Each team may provide a primary carer for each fixture, identified by a "primary carer" armband. This person must hold EN Membership (full or social)
- 7.4 The team bench will consist of no more than 5 people (not including substitutes or photographers), Coach, Manager, Primary Carer and up to 2 other bench officials. These must hold EN Membership
- 7.5 Only those involved in the game (players, substitutes, team bench x 5, scorers, umpires, mentors, assessors and identified photographers) may be allowed within the playing enclosure (regardless of whether the games are indoors or outdoors). No other persons (spectators etc) are permitted whilst games are in play.
- 7.6 All teams must provide a competent scorer (over 16 years of age), a scorecard and pre-match checklist prior to the start of a fixture. The scorecard must have all relevant information completed (date, venue, team names, player's names and guest player membership numbers), before the match commences.

#### **8 League Structure**

- 8.1 For each league, the number of divisions will depend upon entries received
- The Winter League will consist of 4 divisions
  - The Summer League will consist of 4 divisions
- 8.2 In the event of a tie on points, league positions will be decided on; i) Games won, ii) Goal difference, iii) Goal average

#### **Fixtures / Matches (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 9.1 All fixtures will be played as per fixture list
- 9.2 Any team that cannot fulfil their fixture must notify the League Secretary. Cancellation will result in withdrawal from the League draw and deduction from the Team's deposit (£20 first game, £10 per game thereafter)

- 9.3 Consideration will be made by the League Secretary for a written request to cancel a match on the specified League Date. Where possible, a minimum of fourteen (14) days' notice should be given by the requesting team. The opposition must agree to the postponement of a match, which should be played within 4 weeks of the original date. The fixture will be rearranged in agreement with the opposition, the court booked and paid for by the postponing team. These details should then be given to the League Secretary. Failure to comply with this regulation will result in the loss of points
- 9.4 If for any reason the match cannot continue and must be abandoned, a written report should be submitted by the umpires to the League Secretary as soon as possible, and within 7 days of the match, stating at what stage the match was abandoned and giving all relevant details. The League Secretary will then decide whether the game should be rearranged or whether the result should stand. The decision of the League Secretary is final
- 9.5 Any team that withdraws from the league will be liable to pay the cost of ALL REMAINING league fees including those incurred per match for the non-withdrawing team and must be paid in full via BACS

## **10 Scoring of points**

Teams will be awarded league points as follows:

- 5 points for a win
- 3 for a draw
- 2 points if score is within 5 of opponents score
- 1 point if score 50% or more of opponents score
- A defaulting team will lose 5 points, and 5 points will be awarded to the non-defaulting team (the defaulting team will have the match recorded as a loss, the non-defaulting team have it recorded as a win)
- In the case of a defaulted match a score of 30 – 0 will be awarded to the non-defaulting team

*The two highest placed teams from Nottinghamshire in the Premier Division, who do not already play in the Regional League, will be eligible to play in the Qualifying Tournament for a place in the Regional League Division 3. If either of these two teams do not wish to go forward to the Regional League then their place in the Qualifying Tournament may be offered to the next highest placed team*

- 10.2 Upon completion of the league, the top two teams from each division, where relevant, may be promoted to the division above and the bottom two teams in each division may be demoted to the division below. This is dependent on the league entries for the following season. No team can refuse a promotion or relegation

## **11 Scorecards and Scorecard Submissions (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 11.1 The captain or manager of each team MUST FULLY complete the scorecard, including the date of match, team name(s) and player names (player names MUST be their EN Membership names) before the match begins
- 11.2 Captains to print their name on the scorecard upon completion of the match
- 11.3 Upon completion of the match; Umpires must PRINT their name, EN Membership number and qualification on the scorecard. All scorers must PRINT their names on the scorecard
- 11.4 Photographs of both the front and back of scorecards, and the pre-match checklists, are to be sent to the League Secretary within 24 hours of the fixture date
- 11.5 Any teams who knowingly and/or deliberately provide false information regarding identity of players in naming them on the score card will be subject to a penalty and possible disciplinary action
- 11.6 Each team will choose an opposition player to be the POM (player of the match), and record this on the scorecard by ticking the appropriate box. A guest player may not be chosen

## **12 Umpiring (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 12.1 Each team must provide an umpire who shall be a full Member of England Netball, suitably qualified to umpire the fixture and having attended the Nottinghamshire Umpire Forum or attended the relevant umpiring course for the current season
- 12.2 Once an umpire has started officiating a game, no changes are permitted, except in the case of umpire injury/illness. In which case, the "third" umpire must hold the same level of qualification or higher
- 12.3 Umpires must have attended an NNA Forum for the current season to be included on the current Eligible Umpires list produced by NNAs COL. Clubs using qualified umpires from other counties should consult Notts COL prior to officiating any league fixture
- 12.4 The following umpire Qualifications by division, must be adhered to;

- For Winter Premier Division - C\*, B or higher
- For Winter Division 1 - C Award or higher
- For Winter Division 2 - C Award or higher
- For Winter Division 3 - Qualified IO or higher
- For Summer Divisions 1 & 2 - C or higher
- For Summer Divisions 3 & 4 – IO or higher

*NOTE: Following attendance at an online C Award course, umpires must officiate their first fixture with their mentor present. Some qualified IO umpires working towards C Award may officiate one division higher only upon recommendation by their allocated mentor.*

- 12.5 Umpires under the age of 16 may not umpire in the League
- 12.6 Umpires aged between 16 and 18 can umpire but must adhere to the England Netball guidelines for young umpires. If you are unsure of the protocols please follow this link <https://help.centre.englandnetball.co.uk/wiki/spaces/EKC/pages/465797121/Officiating+Resources> or contact Pam Weatherby [nottsofficiating@virginmedia.com](mailto:nottsofficiating@virginmedia.com)
- 12.7 Umpires must only undertake a maximum of 2 games on any league fixture date. This means that they may umpire 2 matches or play once and umpire once

### **13 Scoring and Scorers**

- 13.1 Competent scorers, over the age of 16, must be supplied by each team for all fixtures
- 13.2 Scorers must not coach or comment during the game
- 13.3 Scorers must announce the score after each goal scored with the leading team announced first

### **Complaints and Appeals Procedure**

#### **14 Discipline**

- 14.1 All queries and complaints should be directed to the League Secretary in writing, via email, within 7 days of the fixture
- 14.2 Where the Complaint relates to the playing of a match, the scoring, and/or its result, the relevant squad member or team official, must mark the scorecard "Under Protest"
- 14.3 Complaints should be made in writing (via email) by the named Club Secretary. Complaints will be acknowledged within 7 days and dealt with in a timely manner. Any action required will be determined by the League Secretary, which may include advice from the Resolutions Lead, NNA Committee and/or England Netball where necessary
- 14.4 If any dispute should arise with regards to potential breach of EN Codes of Conduct, the League Secretary will notify the NNA Resolutions Lead
- 14.5 An umpire can log a complaint regarding a match, player(s) and/or a team for continuous disputes and offensive behaviour/language. This must be put in writing to the League Secretary. Complaints will be recorded and where persistent shall be dealt with as deemed appropriate by the League Secretary or NNA Resolutions Lead. This may result in loss of points, fines or other actions
- 14.6 In the event of a serious complaint e.g. Racism, Aggression, Dangerous Play, Verbal Abuse etc, the League Secretary shall notify the Resolution Lead to determine any action required, which may result in the formal EN disciplinary action being taken and possible expulsion from the league
- 14.7 If expulsion from the league occurs all league fees are deemed due including those occurred per match for the non-penalised team and must be paid in full via BACS

#### **15 Photography (Refer to Sanctions/Penalties Table for sanctions)**

- 15.1 The taking of photographs or videorecording of players is not permitted without written permission from both teams, including those forming the bench, both umpires, technical officials and mentors. Live streaming is not permitted
- 15.2 The photography form is to be completed prior to the match, with signatures from all parties required and is to be submitted to the League Secretary with the scorecard and pre match check list (as per rule 11)
- 15.3 The full NNA Photography Policy can be found on [www.NCNA.co.uk](http://www.NCNA.co.uk) or by request from the League Secretary

### **Miscellaneous**

#### **16 Health and Safety**

- 16.1 First Aid and administering thereof to players is the responsibility of each team
- 16.2 Any accident occurring during a match must be recorded by the primary carer or team captain on the NNA

Checklist and Record of Injuries Sheet and submitted to the League Secretary. An England Netball Accident form must be completed for all accidents and sent to England Netball. Alternatively, an online form is available (<https://www.EnglandNetball.co.uk/membership/insurance/report-a-claim>)

16.3 Team captain or primary carer should also inform staff at the venue they are attending before leaving the venue and complete any paperwork as required

## 17 Clubs Meetings

17.1 All Clubs must send at least 1 representative to the AGM and all Clubs' meetings called by the County Association, where their presence is requested. The representative is in addition to any member of the NNA Committee, who may be part of the club. They must stay for the duration of the meeting(s). Failure to do so will forfeit entry to the league draw and the Club will be fined £25, payable before the next season commences. Any appeal against such a fine must be sent to the NNA Secretary within 7 days of the fine being imposed

## 18 Disclaimer

Nottinghamshire Netball Association will not be liable to any person, whether in contract, tort negligence or otherwise for any direct or indirect loss or injury of any nature, howsoever caused and howsoever arising from the matters covered by these Regulations, provided that nothing in these regulations exclude or restricts Nottinghamshire Netball's liability for any personal loss or injury caused by Nottinghamshire Netball's own negligence, the negligence of its employees, or for fraud

### Sanctions and Penalties Table

Rule	Sanction/Penalty
3 - Playing Qualifications and Eligibility	1 point deduction for a team that uses an ineligible player
4 – Code of Conduct	Referral to the Resolutions Lead
5 – Registration of Squad Members	1 point deduction for a team that uses an ineligible player
6 – Guest Players	1 point deduction for a team that uses an ineligible player 1 point deduction for not entering the Guest Player's Membership Number 1 point deduction for not advising the use of a Guest Player or advising within the 2 hours of the start time
7 – Playing the Game	4 point deduction for a team that has people courtside that are not part of the games (i.e Young children, parents/spectators) 5 point deduction for not providing a competent scorer or having a scorecard (with required information) prior to the start of the match
9 – Fixtures/Matches	- Cancellation of a match; £20 deduction from the deposit in the first instance, £10 for each cancelled match thereafter - Exclusion from the league draw - 30-0 win to the non-defaulting team - 5 point deduction to the defaulting team
11 – Scorecards and Submissions	1 point deduction for a team that submits a scorecard and/or pre match check list late 1 point deduction for a team that submits an incomplete scorecard
12 – Umpiring	- 5 point deduction for a team that uses an ineligible umpire - An Umpire will be withdrawn from the eligible umpires list for the next 4 fixture dates if they actively participate in more than 2 fixtures on one date (per league)
15 - Photography	Referral to the Resolutions Lead

Any appeal of a sanction imposed by the League, must be sent in writing to the relevant League Secretary and the Competitions TSG Lead:

- Olivia Murphy (Winter League); **NottsWinterLeague@outlook.com**
- Olivia Murphy (Summer League); **NottsWinterLeague@outlook.com**
- Lindsey Haywood (TSG Lead); **nottscomp-tsg-lead@outlook.com**

All appeals must be made within 7 days of the sanction being applied. The appeal will be acknowledged and a decision made in a timely manner